

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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First person —

## Triumph in tragedy: what God has taught me

By Jan Johnsonius

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — What some people see as tragedy, others see as triumph. My journey toward understanding that truth began Aug. 1, 1993.

My husband Jim and I had been seeking appointment by the Foreign Mission Board for nearly eight years when we set foot on Costa Rican soil in 1991 to begin the Spanish-language learning process. Less than a year later, in August 1992, we headed to our long-awaited destination: Argentina. We hoped to spend the rest of our lives there serving the Lord.



Johnsonius

We struggled with Spanish and learning another new culture. We lost nearly our entire shipment of earthly goods before it even reached Argentina. We toiled to learn how to live in a small village, and how to meet the overwhelming needs of a rural province.

We discovered that although God had called us to music missions, the true need was for pastoral ministry and church development. The Lord certainly had different plans for us, but we joined him in his work and knew the joy of being completely in his will.

It was that assurance that helped sustain me the following August, when Jim and I were involved in an auto accident as we traveled the remote rural roads between our new home of Villaguay and the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires.

An ambulance rushed us to the nearest clinic, and we ended up in intensive care — two beds with a sheet hung between them. As I lay in one bed, I could hear lifesaving equipment and hospital personnel rushing frantically around Jim's bed.

Then... silence.

No one said anything to me, but I knew. A missionary at my bedside confirmed it. Jim had died.

In that moment, God filled me with a peace that's hard to put into words. For me, the only experience that could come close is when I received Christ as my Lord and Savior. What I didn't realize was that the serenity I felt was physically visible to others — at least to the Argentine physician caring for Jim and me.

Shortly afterward, I thanked the doctor for all he had done to save Jim's life. It was then that he said to me, "I've never seen anything like this before. The peace, the tran-

quility... in you and your husband."

My next impulse was to ask him if he knew Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. But before the words could leave my mouth, God clearly spoke to me and said, "No. I want you to ask him if he believes in God."

I paused for just a moment, pondering why he would have me ask that, and then said, "Do you believe in God?" "No, I don't," the doctor replied.

"After what you've seen here tonight, are you beginning to believe there really is a God?"

"Yes," he said.

Physically unable to continue the conversation that night, I told him I would return to talk to him about my God.

Looking back, I realize even more clearly that it had to be God working through me. With 13 fractures, internal injuries, and severe bruising, it was three months before I could walk well enough to return to that town and speak with the doctor.

When I did, Alfredo and I talked for nearly three hours. He was full of questions about my faith, and how God was working in my life. I shared Christ with him. He listened. I would love to tell you he accepted Christ that day, but he didn't. Faith is a difficult concept for this young physician, but God is obviously working in his life, and I pray that Alfredo will come to know the Lord I serve.

Word of the accident spread quickly in Argentina, through U.S. churches, and the Foreign Mission Board communication system. As a plane evacuated me from that rural clinic to the British Hospital in Buenos Aires, as I lay in intensive care for four days, as I continued a four-week convalescence unable even to sit up in bed, and in the months of recovery that followed, I knew that many people were praying for me.

I knew because I could literally feel God healing my body.

I was bathed in God's love, from the nearly 1,500 participants at the 1993 Jericho missions week at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center — who interrupted their worship service to pray for me — to our "family" of Argentine Baptists in the little village of Villaguay and our missionary colleagues around the world. I've never experienced anything like it.

My heart remains firmly in missions. In contemplating the needs of the world around me and recalling our brief time on the field, I know the struggles and demands of

career missions. I also know that the Lord wants me to be more prepared to serve him. He's leading me toward seminary at the end of my furlough. Another major step. Another challenge. More questions. But always the word comes back: trust.

Johnsonius, currently on missionary furlough, is working in the Foreign Mission Board's news and information office.



**HAPPY DAYS** — Jim and Jan Johnsonius were just beginning their missionary career with excitement and anticipation when this photograph was taken in 1991. Just two years later, Jim was killed in a car accident in Argentina. Jan was seriously injured.

### Networks to monitor violence

The four major broadcast networks — ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox — have selected an independent, university-based research group to monitor and assess television violence. The Center for Communication Policy (CCP) at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) will spearhead the project, announced in late June by CBS senior vice president Martin Franks. The study will be made available to the public after CCP analyzes the content of the 1994-95 and 1995-96 television seasons. CCP director Jeffrey Cole said the study will involve more than just counting instances of violence. The motivation, relevance to plot, time of broadcast, extent of violence, and consequences of violence will also be fed into the analysis. Cable, independent stations, public television, motion pictures, and video games will also be included to place network programming in the context of all video sources entering the home. "We're not just generating research. We'll produce narrative results that don't require a Ph.D. (degree) to understand," Cole said.

### Crosses must go

The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to overturn lower court rulings that forced three California local governments to cease maintenance and use of large crosses that have become landmarks. The court did not review appeals of a March 1993 ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit of Appeals that the use of the crosses violates the California constitution's guarantee of "free exercise and enjoyment of religion without discrimination or preference." One of the crosses was built in the 1920's on Mt. Helix in San Diego County, while the other was built as a tribute to war veterans in 1954 on Mt. Soledad inside the city of San Diego. In the third case, the nearby city of La Mesa was ordered to remove the Mt. Helix cross from the city's insignia. The appeals court had ruled that while the city of La Mesa had a legitimate secular purpose in using the well-known local landmark to make the city's personnel and property more identifiable, such a purpose did not lessen the constitutionally-prohibited "preference" the insignia showed for a particular religion.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

First Church, Natchez, dedicates its just-completed 1,100 seat auditorium with a choir presentation of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," accompanied by the new 35-rank Moeller pipe organ and the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

#### 20 years ago

John and Ollie Thomas, long-time William Carey College boosters, cut the ribbon on the new administration building named in their honor on the Baptist school's Hattiesburg campus.

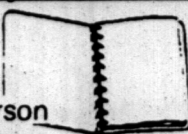
#### 50 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board purchases two "choice" lots on North Congress Street in Jackson for a new Baptist Building, but construction is put on hold until the end of the war.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



## The approaching hoofbeats

It's been 219 years since Paul Revere made his famous ride. It was a wake-up call, a warning signal, a "this is it" hour for action. Now we are bearing down on the 21st century and the warning flags are flying. Not only the British are coming but so are the Cubans, Haitians, Mexicans, Koreans, Africans, ... and the list grows each day. Last week the United Nations called 170 countries to an International Conference on Population and Development in overcrowded Cairo to discuss the problems connected with population.

In 50 years 20% of the world's population will be over 65. Health care and senior costs will reach astronomical heights. The 77 million U.S. Baby Boomers will retire in the first half of the 21st century and the social security system will be hard put to provide for them. "Humanity is growing older," says the *Scientific American* (April 1993). In 1900, about 1% of the population was over 65, in 1992, 6.2% of the planet's people was in this category, and by 2050 it will be 20%... a threefold increase.

Churches, especially in main-

line denominations, parallel this aging process. Some fear that in a generation, mission money will be used by churches to support the elderly. In the year 2000 the population clock will strike 6.2 billion... that is almost a billion more than we have today. According to the *Wall Street Journal* (Aug. 30), more than half of the world's population will live in cities by the turn of the century. Then the population will double (to 12 billion) quicker than ever before. Map-makers are running short of ink trying to keep current and they are quaking in Cairo.

In the economic realm the bread basket is rapidly being depleted. "Absolute poverty" is the term used to describe the condition of one billion people. In 31 nations population growth exceeds 3% and food production in a minus 1 or 2%. *World Vision Magazine* (January 1994) tell us that demographers are waving the warning flag. Two observations are made: in the Western church with each succeeding generation, we lose more of our young people. Soon there will be fewer Christian

young people to support the church. Secondly, the under-30 group stands at a different economic level. Housing, food, health care, and education cost 10 to 20 times as much as they did 30 years ago. Incomes have not kept pace.

We've programmed our young people to expect as much as their parents have and demographers say it is not likely to happen. Thus they will have less for the church and mission programs. In the past you could buy a house on a simple income, today it comes closer to taking three incomes to purchase a house.

Hopeless? Not at all, says Tom Sine, a futurist writer. It may call for belt-tightening, living in smaller homes, and car-pooling, but the younger generation could well set a new pace in sacrificial giving. A revolution is taking place as Paul Revere rides through Suburbia, but as in 1775, it can be won. The Church of our Lord has weathered serious storms before.

"Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me, lest I be full, and deny thee..." (Prov. 30:8-9).

## While not necessarily sinful, debt violates Bible teachings

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Being up to your ears in debt "is not necessarily a sin," but it is a violation of biblical teaching, a financial planner told a group of single adults.

"The Bible says that a person who pledges to pay for something in the future is a man lacking in sense," Terry Hendrixson said during the Sept. 2-5 Labor Day Single Adult Weekend Getaway at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

"God admonishes us not to get in debt just as a mother would lovingly advise her child not to play in the street or touch a hot stove," said Hendrixson, a certified financial planner and public accountant who works with Blankenship, Weaver and Associates, P.C., in Brentwood, Tenn.

"Two-thirds of the parables in the Gospels talk about money," he said during the seminar he led, "Finances with an Attitude."

Being in debt "is not necessarily a sin. I mean, it's not the type of thing that causes eternal damnation of your soul, but it sure can make your life miserable," he said.

Hendrixson said he believes a person could probably live debt free with the exception of buying a

home, if financial affairs were managed properly.

A Gallup poll of Christian families, including single adults, indicated 40% of church families overspend every month, Hendrixson said.

"That means they systematically spend more than they bring in. They either deplete their savings or increase their debt. And those are the 40% who admitted it," he said.

Hendrixson said the Gallup poll also indicated 20% of the married couples answering the survey acknowledged they were on the verge of divorce; 50% had already been through a divorce; and 90% of those divorced or thinking about it said the reason was financial difficulties.

"Ninety percent of divorces occurring in American churches today point toward financial difficulties. Now that was sobering to me. Very frightening. And that's the main reason I do what I do," he said.

Hendrixson said he understands what financial debt can do to a person.

"I almost had a nervous breakdown at age 28. I had bought a home. I had started a business of

my own when I was 25. And by the time I was 28 years old, I was so incredibly, miserably in debt that I was literally ready to commit suicide," he said.

"It just about ruined my marriage and my walk with the Lord. So this debt business is serious, serious stuff."

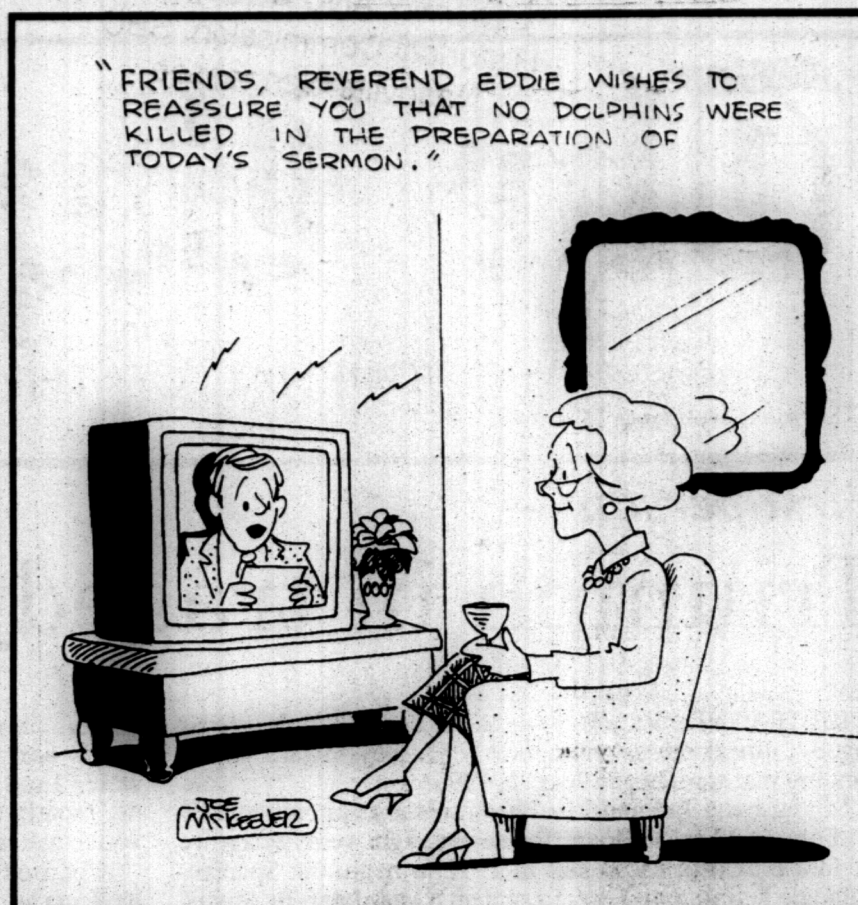
If being in debt is so detrimental to marriage, peace of mind, and spiritual stability, why do people continue to plunge themselves deeper into its rut, Hendrixson asked.

"Because it is the American way. We just follow the example of our leaders," he said.

"As Christians, wealth should be more than money. It should be salvation. Seventy-five years from now, what are you going to be able to take with you? The most you can hope to take is your soul and the souls of your family and children," he said.

"Financial freedom is not a condition of being debt free or having an abundance. It is a heart attitude resulting in true contentment." Hendrixson listed several ways to achieve financial freedom. They include:

— Study God's Word. "There



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Stop going to pot

I can't believe I saved such writing. It was insulting then and time has not improved it. I rediscovered it in a ragged journal that I have had for more than 20 years. First it says:

"Quit playing god. You can taper off or stop right now."

"Stop being a baby. Wean yourself or throw the pacifier away."

"Take advantage of the help available. The church program offers many chances."

"Stop going to pot. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Treat it so."

"Make friends with your loved ones. It takes time and you."

"Master your money. Management is more important than the amount."

"Extend yourself to others. You can't be human and skin-locked."

"Worship and pray, or else you

consign yourself to a very small world."

"Have some real fun. Swallow your false guilt, digest your pride, and let go for a change."

"Chance caring again. Sure you may get hurt, but maybe his grace is sufficient."

"Serious up about being saved. Sure it takes faith, but eternal life is not small choice."

"You can go ahead being grumpy, selfish, lazy, and ignorant; passing out your judgments or dragging your blanket; getting fat, flabby, high, or cancer; balancing the chips on your shoulder, smart-mouthing, and wallowing in your self-pity; hoarding your money or throwing it away; not caring and staying lost."

I don't know the author nor how it became part of my journal. I didn't feel good the rest of the day... a little grumpy. — GH

is a wealth of information there."

— Transfer ownership. "In your mind transfer ownership to God and get away from the American attitude that everything is mine."

— Prayer is essential. "Sounds cliché, but it is essential. You cannot spend your money God's way if you're not talking to him and he's not talking back to you."

— Obey God's direction. "Trying to be discerning of God's will."

— Have a clear conscience in your personal dealings and your business dealings.

— Avoid indulgences.

— Accept God's provisions. "Learn to be content in all things, rich or poor."

People interested in straightening out their personal finances may visit Baptist and Life Way Christian Book Stores for the materials: "Master Your Money" by Ron Blue or for financial books (*Debt-Free Living*, *How to Manage Your Money*, and *Your Finances in Changing Times*) written by Larry Burkett, founder and director of Christian Financial Concepts based in Gainesville, Ga.

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# 11 HMB directors sign "statement of dissent"

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP) — Eleven directors of the Home Mission Board have signed a "statement of dissent" intended to disassociate themselves from a controversial document dealing with Catholics and evangelicals as well as from recent action by the mission agency's board concerning that document.

According to the group's spokesman, William G. Streich, Wichita Falls, Texas, the statement is in response to a motion passed Aug. 10 by HMB directors which affirmed both a resolution on Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics adopted by the SBC meeting in Orlando and a Resolution of Intent adopted by the HMB executive committee in June.

While the statement of dissent expressed support for the moral concerns addressed in the document, it said "sound doctrine must be protected and guarded beyond all else" and listed six grounds for dissent.

HMB board chairman Bob Curtis told Baptist Press as far as he is concerned the issue is closed. "The board has expressed itself. Those who disagree have now expressed themselves. It's time for us to move on and work together to reach our nation for Christ."

Larry Lewis, HMB president, disagrees with charges in the statement but agrees both sides have had ample opportunity to speak to the issues saying, "I feel it has been adequately dealt with."

The dissent statement charges the Aug. 10 action by HMB directors passed by a vote of 40-28, however, 12 abstentions means "half of the directors declined to

support Dr. Lewis'" endorsement of the document.

In addition to Streich, other signers of the dissent included: David L. Carver Sr., Utah-Idaho convention; Carol R. Cearley, North Carolina; D. Walter Collett, Maryland; G. Wyndham Cook Jr., Arkansas; Manuel A. Galindo, Texas; Everett G. Geis Sr., Louisiana; Roger L. Gorby, Virginia; Ed Harrison Jr., Arkansas; M. Randall Jones, South Carolina; and John B. Thompson, Georgia.

The six grounds for dissent cited are:

(1) The document claims evangelicals and Catholics are on the same mission presenting the same gospel. A concept most Southern Baptists would reject.

(2) The document denies "grace alone" is essential for justification, thereby conflicting with the SBC resolution this year and with the beliefs of most Southern Baptists.

(3) The document contains heretical statements admitted to by Lewis, thereby prioritizing a sociopolitical agenda above that of sound doctrine.

(4) The document claims Catholicism is an "evangelically assertive" religion, thereby conflicting with the stand of the HMB's Interfaith Witness Department.

(5) The document contains confusing and controversial language concerning proselytizing, or "sheep stealing," thereby creating concern and difficulties in missions at home and abroad.

(6) The document, while pointing out differences, claims Roman Catholicism as a legitimate form of discipleship, thereby encouraging a

born again believer to continue in Mariolatry, sacraments, transubstantiation, etc., in order to grow in Christ.

The dissent concludes by emphasizing "the underlying doc-

trine behind the Great Commission must remain pure, lest our mission be distorted. A zeal for missions becomes dangerous when doctrine is subordinated to any cause. By subordinating doctrine to cause,

this document leads to unacceptable compromise which has been endorsed by the HMB."

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press. Martin King contributed to this story.

By Herb Hollinger

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

## The Baptist Record

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### CBF holding \$200,000 set for Southern Baptist causes

ATLANTA (BP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is holding nearly \$200,000 designated for Southern Baptist Convention agencies but cannot forward the money after a vote at the SBC in June prohibiting SBC agencies from receiving CBF funds.

Cecil Sherman, CBF coordinator, told members of the organization's coordinating council Sept. 10 that he sent a letter July 8 to the churches which had sent the funds "asking for instructions on how they want us to deal with the money. We will return it to them or redirect it to a place we can deliver it." A second letter will be sent in a few weeks and a third in December, according to Sherman.

But, he noted, "... monies which are not redesignated by the end of the year will be placed in the CBF global missions offering."

The CBF is a 3-year-old group of moderate Southern Baptists critical of SBC leadership. The council, which conducts business between the organization's annual general assembly, also approved affiliation with 14 state and regional groups, changed dates and locations for future general assemblies, and added eight missionaries during its Sept. 8-10 regular meeting.

The council changed the site and dates for the 1995 CBF general assembly and suspended previously approved sites for 1997-99. The 1995 assembly scheduled for May 4-6 in Austin, Texas, was changed due to anticipated overcrowding from the Texas legislative session meeting at the same time. The assembly will be held July 20-22, 1995, at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth.

A commissioning service Wednesday evening brings to 52 the number of CBF-supported missionaries. Those commissioned were Rusty and Kerry Brock, Louisville, Ky.; Craig and Meeryung Hall, Killeen, Texas; Donald and Clara McNeely, both Texas natives; and Ralph and Tammy Stocks, Greensboro, N.C.

The Halls are assigned to Asia,

the McNeelys to Eastern Europe, the Stocks to the Gypsy people group, and the Brocks to a two-year assignment to the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Council members held lengthy discussions regarding a proposed budget and a proposed mission statement but finalized neither.

Although a 1995-96 budget "target" for was approved, "that figure and the target allocations could change considerably before they are presented to the general assembly," according to David Wilkinson, CBF director of communications. The proposed budget total of \$9.15 million is 26% more than the approved budget for the first six months of 1995.

Proposed allocations for '95-'96 call for doubling the theological education budget, increasing allocations for the general assembly 43%, and cutting allocations for the Baptist World Alliance 76%.

Sixty percent of the target budget would be allocated for global missions, 17% for theological edu-

cation, 12% for administration, communication and the general assembly, and 3% for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Committees and ministry groups will bring final budget recommendations to the February 1995 coordinating council meeting.

Sherman reported that 1,275 churches have sent funds to CBF in 1994, however, only "500-600 appear to be church support" with the remainder designated gifts passed through the local church. Sherman said he estimates "five to six thousand churches appear open to our message and we need to get to them with our message."

The global missions committee reported the goal for the CBF special missions offering for 1994-95 will be \$2.8 million. The group also appointed a subcommittee to study establishment of new CBF churches and is working with the Woman's Missionary Union in publishing and distributing CBF missionary prayer cards similar to baseball trading cards.

### Mail hotel reservations for Atlanta SBC Oct. 1

NASHVILLE (BP) — Requests for hotel reservations for the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta should be mailed Oct. 1, according to convention manager Jack Wilkerson.

The June 20-22 meeting is at the new Georgia Dome/World Congress Center.

The SBC Housing Guide and Request Form is in the September issue of SBC Life magazine (formerly Baptist Program), published by the SBC Executive Committee. It can also be obtained from the executive directors' offices of the Baptist state conventions.

The Hyatt Regency downtown is the convention hotel.

Transportation in Atlanta is being planned using the MARTA System. MARTA offers multiple day, unlimited travel passes that are very reasonably priced, Wilkerson said. Proximity to MARTA was a consideration in the hotel room block selection process.

Information about group housing for 50 or more people or special needs housing can be obtained by writing to the SBC Housing Information Office, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203 or by calling (615) 244-2355.

### Mississippi gifts to CP right on target for year

Mississippi Baptists are right on target for Cooperative Program giving for the first eight months of the year, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the money.

Giving for January through August totals \$14,955,721. This is only \$12,279 (or .08%) less than the pro rata budget. The pro rata

amount is figured by dividing the entire 1994 budget (\$22,452,000) by 12 and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

Giving for August totaled \$2,127,075, which is \$570,078 more than that given in August of 1993.

Total giving so far for 1994 is \$906,807 (or 6.45%) more than that given for the first eight months of 1993.



### First HMB meeting

Max Loper (left) and Joe Cobb (right) attended their first meeting as directors of the Home Mission Board (HMB) in August. They are pictured with Larry Lewis, HMB president. Loper is a certified public accountant in Philadelphia. He is a member of First Church, Philadelphia, where he serves as deacon, chairman of the finance committee, and adult Sunday School teacher. He is also chairman of the association's Christian Action Committee. Cobb is director of the Baptist Student Union at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville. He is a member of First Church, Booneville, and serves on the board of directors of Mississippi Right to Life.





World Changers from across the Southern Baptist Convention wrapped up their summer 1994 work schedule with a total of 45 projects in two Mississippi counties. Preparing new cabinets for a home in Lambert were (top, from left) Rachel Simmons of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, Ark.; Dawn Madsen of South Main Church in Pasadena, Texas; and Jennifer Neves of Forest Cove Church in Kingwood, Texas. Jennifer Edwards (above) of First Church in Ellisville, Mo., helped with the total reconstruction of a roof on a home in Marks. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Florida to withdraw HMB gifts proposal

LAKE YALE, Fla. (BP) — John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, has agreed to a request that the state's budget committee withdraw a controversial recommendation which would alter the relationship between Florida and the Home Mission Board.

The request came in a letter from Mark Brister, chairman of the Executive Committee's program and structure study committee, which is studying the SBC's programs and organizational structure.

The Florida proposal called for the state convention to retain beginning in 1996 those funds (presently about \$1.3 million) which normally would have been channeled to the HMB through the Cooperative Program. The budget committee passed the recommendation last month and was scheduled to present it to the State Board of Missions Sept. 9 and the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist Convention in November.

However, Brister requested Sullivan, who had supported the proposal, delay its consideration

and also meet with the program and structure committee. Sullivan spent Sept. 8-9 in Lake Yale for the board meeting at which the budget committee proposal would have been presented.

Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., said in a prepared statement released by his office Sept. 8, the Florida proposal "not only relates (Florida) in a new way to one of our SBC agencies, (it) offers a paradigm shift in mission giving... we have requested Dr. Sullivan delay the proposal."

Brister said the committee would like to hear the background, reasons, and objectives which prompted the proposed Florida recommendation.

HMB President Larry Lewis had charged the recommendation if passed would strike a "death blow" to the Cooperative Program. He told Baptist Press Sept. 8 he met with Sullivan and several Florida convention leaders earlier in the week at a Florida Cooperative Program summit meeting. At that meeting Sullivan confirmed that he would attempt to withdraw the proposal.

## World Changers continues to grow, youths seek ministry opportunities

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Young people with hearts for missions helped make life a little better this summer for scores of poor Mississippians.

World Changers, the youth missions program administered by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, closed out another record-setting summer with projects in the state and around the nation.

Paul Harrell, director of Mississippi's Brotherhood Department, said the World Changers program is designed to give young people hands-on missions experience while providing an opportunity for them to develop relationships in areas of missions needs.

The youthful volunteers pay \$235 of their own money for a week of heavy construction work during the day and intense Bible study at night. They slept at local schools in the areas where they worked.

Construction projects included installation of new windows and siding, painting, roofing, replacement of roof rafters and underlayment, and a variety of interior work.

Harrell said the 1994 summer program set new records both nationally and in the state of Mississippi, which has been the case each summer since World Changers began five summers ago.

"In 1990, there were 225 volunteers — nationally. By the summer of 1994, the number had increased to approximately 7,000 young people," Harrell pointed out.

World Changers conducted 45 projects in two Mississippi counties this summer, with 521 young people and 73 adults participating, he said.

In Quitman County, approximately \$22,500 was needed for building supplies to complete 15 projects, while approximately \$62,500 was required for 30 projects in the Vicksburg/Warren County area, Harrell estimated.

The Vicksburg volunteers were second in number to only one other World Changers crew anywhere in the country — Briceville, Tenn., which fielded 369 young people, he said.

Funding came from a number of sources, including the city of Vicksburg. McCoy Building Supply in Vicksburg also donated building materials.

Harrell said Brotherhood officials are counting on a big turnout for the 1995 summer program as World Changers continues to burgeon.

"Next year's projects will be in Vicksburg on July 8-15. We're planning on 400 young people in that one week alone," he said.

For more information on World Changers, contact the World Changers office at the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104. Telephone: (901) 272-2461.

## Christian Heritage Week proclaimed; activities planned across Mississippi

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice has declared the week of Sept. 18-24, as Christian Heritage Week in Mississippi.

Fordice, quoting James Madison and the Declaration of Independence in his official proclamation, encouraged Mississippians to remember that "individual faith is the power that inspires men of goodwill to lay foundations and pursue noble goals for themselves and their country."

Fordice also urged the state's citizens to reflect upon their Christian heritage, reestablish the country's original concepts of freedom of religion, and refrain from excluding the importance of religious values from private, public, and political life.

Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission (CAC), said the proclamation was prompted by concern that the country's Christian heritage is being minimized by people afraid that any mention of it invites legal action.

"Christian Heritage Week is being promoted by those of us who want a balanced view of the positive historic role of Christians in the life of our nation," he pointed out.

Jones said several speakers have volunteered to take that message around the state, and a number of schools in south Mississippi have scheduled engagements.

Volunteers will also coordinate a statewide mailout of the proclamation, he added, with approximately 30 states celebrating the week by the end of November.

"The recognition of Christian Heritage Week will refocus us on the moral and biblical principles that have shaped the institutions of our country," Jones said.

For more information, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

## State CBF schedules October meeting, First Church, Leland

The annual meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 8 at First Church, Leland. Sessions will begin at 10 a.m.

Daniel Vestal, pastor of Tallwood Church, Houston, will be the principle speaker. Vestal was nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1989, and has served on numerous SBC committees, including the

Cooperative Program Study Committee, the Committee on Nominations, and the Peace Committee.

Business sessions will be conducted. Breakout session topics will include: Laity Involvement, led by Jean Daniel of Starkville; Missions Opportunity, led by John McGraw of Laurel; Giving Plans, led by George Walker of Leland; and Denominational Relations, led by Glen Williams of McComb.

## Southaven Church hosts camp connected with River Ministry

The Mississippi River Ministry was the backdrop for Day Camp For Jesus, a missions project of First Church, Southaven, held Aug. 1-5 at the Spruce Street Baptist property in Clarksdale. The project was conducted with the support of the North Delta Association.

The Southaven mission team was comprised of 15 members under the direction of David R. Cox, church missions minister. North Delta director of missions M.C. Johnson and his wife Helen were instrumental in the success of the Day Camp For Jesus project which was held in an impoverished

section of Clarksdale.

A total of 64 children enrolled for the week-long project, and 14 made professions of faith.

The site of the Day Camp was a boarded up, insect-infested, former church building. Those obstacles did not stop the onslaught of children, ages preschool to sixth grade.

The Day Camp activities included a Mission Bible School, lunch provided to campers and workers, outside games, a Bible video series, craft projects, and a puppet ministry geared to share the gospel to the children in a simple but uncompromising presentation of Jesus' unbounded love for them.



# Witness chair denies "harassment"; others lament Brymer resignation

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — The acting chairman of the Florida Baptist Witness Commission denied charges by editor Jack Brymer that Brymer was "harassed" into resigning Aug. 26.

While the publication's governing board has often criticized Brymer for his news judgment, "I have not felt that our meetings have been consistently negative or violent or unloving or unfeeling," said Waylon Moore of Tampa, who presided over Brymer's resignation in the absence of the commission's elected chairman, Lance Anderson of DeFuniak Springs, who is in Africa on a mission trip.

"I have felt Jack had almost total support, consistently, of the board members that I knew," he added.

Moore said no determination has been made about terms of Brymer's severance or how long he will remain on salary, but commissioners are honoring his desire to leave as soon as possible. Moore said he is polling members of the board in an effort to set up a meeting in September when "we will make plans for the searching out of a new editor and possible repositioning of the Witness to meet the personal and church needs of Florida Baptists."

Reaction to the resignation was mixed, but supporters and critics alike express admiration for Brymer. Some persons contacted for comment decried the situation which prompted him to resign, while others said it probably was inevitable.

James Watters, president of the Southern Baptist Press Association,

said Brymer "has represented the very best in Christian journalism" over the years, embodying the adage "trust the Lord and tell the people."

"Now it would appear that his exemplary ministry has become victim of 'kosher' journalism, a curious result of the wish to protect Southern Baptist readers from all news other than a ritual reporting of events, edited by prescribed rules," said Watters, editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness in Portland, Ore.

Baptist Press Director Herb Hollinger said: "Any time an editor feels the need to resign, it is an unfortunate situation. Jack has demonstrated over many, many years he has exceptional qualifications. I'm very sorry to hear that happened. I don't know all the circumstances, but I find it very unfortunate that something couldn't be worked out."

Scott Leonard, a member of the Witness Commission and pastor of Palm Harbor Community Church in Palm Harbor, Fla., said he feels for Brymer but understands his decision.

"I love and respect Jack. I also like Jack and I hurt with him for the pain and stress he is experiencing right now," Leonard said. "The more I have understood Jack's perspective on the controversy in our convention, the more I have believed that he would struggle in the light of the climate among Florida Baptists. I felt if he was going to satisfy the Witness commissioners' definition of balanced reporting, he would struggle between compromising his convictions and resigning. I

would request that Florida Baptists pray for Jack and for the commission as we seek for God's man to take on this great responsibility of editing the Florida Baptist Witness."

Another conservative Florida pastor said Brymer is simply out of step with the conservative mood of the state.

"In my personal opinion, Jack is a good man, a genuine Christian man. However, I do not believe he represents the basic, grassroots Florida Baptist or Southern Baptist," said Michael Hailey, pastor of First Church, Lakeland, and a former conservative candidate for state convention president. "His more moderate predilection was more than obvious to me in his editorials and his selection of news sources."

Hailey said the Witness Commission should replace Brymer with an editor "who has been a part of the conservative resurgence. If that's where we are as a convention, and I think it is, then I think the state Baptist paper ought to be there too."

Pat Anderson of Lakeland, moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida, said Brymer was victim not of the grassroots but of a political process that "put people on the Witness Commission to get Brymer out."

"Jack has really tried to be fair," he said. "The message is you can't be fair and work for the Southern Baptist Convention. Fairness is not what they want. They want control of all information, making the state paper just a mouthpiece for the ruling elite."

## In retirement, T.W. Hunt intends to continue addressing the church

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — T.W. Hunt, Baptist Sunday School Board prayer specialist since 1987, will retire Oct. 1. He and his wife Laverne will move to Houston, where their daughter lives. He says he is looking forward to living in the same city as his six grandchildren — who range in age from 16 years to

seven months.

Nevertheless, he plans to continue traveling extensively, sharing the message God gave him 20 years ago. On average, Hunt says, he is away from home speaking 200 days a year.

While that may not sound like much of a retirement to many, Hunt responds, "I believe very

strongly we're in the last days. I really feel like the time is short."

Hunt, formerly professor of music and missions for 24 years at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, talked with the Baptist New Mexican during the Baptist Convention of New Mexico Regional Mind of Christ Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center Aug. 26-27.

Hunt recounts that when he was only a boy — about 10 years old — he began having "very vivid dreams" about the second coming of Jesus, which convinced him Christ would return very soon. He says he has always had a deep yearning for the return of Christ, one which he wants others to have as well.

Calling attention to Revelation 19:7, which mentions that Christ's bride (the church) will make herself ready for his return, Hunt notes, "The bride isn't making herself ready." There is too much sin in the church, he says.

Hunt believes the message God has given him is a message the bride of Christ can use to make herself ready.

## GA Day at Central Hills features missionaries

Girls in Action (GA) Day at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko is slated for Saturday, Oct. 15.

Activities for GAs in grades one through six and their leaders will include missionary speakers, mission projects, field game activities, and clowning.

Each GA is encouraged to bring canned food for "Project Help," a hunger emphasis sponsored by the Southern Baptist and Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) organizations.

Cost is \$3 per person, and each participant should bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided.

Registration is limited, so early sign-up is recommended. For more information and to register, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

Registration information will also appear in the Sept. 22 edition of the "Housetops" supplement in The Baptist Record.

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## Flood relief

The Woman's Missionary Union of Calvary Church, New Augusta, prepared 70 comfort care bags for distribution by the Red Cross to flood victims in the Southeastern United States. Taffie Stanford, president (left); Rose Ingram, pastor's wife (center); and Lois Bell, WMU director (right), were among those who coordinated and prepared the bags. The Brotherhood, under the direction of Jimmy Gregory, also took up a special offering to help "mud out" efforts.

## BNF plans Sept. 23-24 retreat at Garaywa

"Growing as Nurses in '94" is the theme of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) retreat at Camp Garaywa in Clinton on Sept. 23-24.

Program guests for the retreat include Kay Brown, a registered nurse with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) who works in Colombia, South America; Margaret McCall, FMB registered nurse who works in Burundi; and Alvinia Michalec, enlistment associate with FMB in Richmond, Va.

Brown is a native of Golden who attended Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Belmont



Brown

College in Nashville, and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

She received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi school of nursing in Jackson and the diploma in nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital school of nursing in Memphis. She has served in Barranquilla, Colombia, since 1987.

McCall, from Louisville, Ky.,

received her nursing bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee and her master's degree in nursing from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. She also attended Southwestern Seminary.

She is married to Dennis McCall of Vicksburg, and they have three children. The McCalls have been stationed in Burundi since 1988.

Michalec has served since 1977 with the FMB, where she assists health care volunteer groups traveling in Asia and the Pacific area. Her husband is retired and they have three adult children.

Registration for the retreat will begin at 4 p.m. on Sept. 23, and the program will conclude after lunch on Sept. 24. Cost is \$23 per person, and all nurses are invited.

Sept. 21 is the deadline for reservations, which should be mailed to Camp Garaywa, P.O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060.

For more information, contact Ashley McCaleb in the Woman's Missionary Union of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free (800) 748-1651.



Michalec

## Urgent request

Nurses are needed immediately in Cuba for one-, two-, or three-week assignments in Guantanamo Bay. Volunteers with this effort, sponsored by the World Relief Organization, will receive expenses and a small stipend. To volunteer or for more information, contact Andrea Kline at (202) 333-1616.



TOM &amp; EVELYN LINEBERRY PREACHING CENTER



## New manuscripts found

Southwestern Seminary President Ken S. Hemphill and Spurgeon's College's Principal Michael Quicke celebrate the discovery of several original manuscripts for early sermons of 19th century preacher Charles Hadson Spurgeon. Hemphill and Quicke stand near a bust of the British pulpiteer. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*I am 24 years old. My brother hurts my mother. I wish he would come to know Christ; he needs guidance and so does my mother.*

I don't know how old your mother and brother are, so let me assume your mother is capable of taking care of herself and your brother is in late adolescence or early adulthood. When we see people hurting, we want to jump in and fix it for them. Be a daughter and a sister, but don't try to tell them what to do. You are in the best position when you report to them what you see and feel, instead of trying to fix their relationship. Pray for your mother and brother, and pray for the right words to say to them. Begin conversations with "I" rather than "you" — the minute you begin saying "You need to..." or "You should..." you put the other person on the defensive. Encourage your mother to take a stand and say "no" to your brother. Talk with your brother and listen for the cause of his anger. He may be releasing frustration on your mother because he has no other outlets. Encourage him to find other outlets. Encourage both of them to find neutral people with whom to discuss this issue — people who can remain objective in the face of emotional conflict. Your family is blessed to have someone like you who cares. Use that care to bring health, not more harm, to all parties. In your roles of daughter and sister, you maintain the respect of both parties

while holding on to your own dignity and integrity.

*I am a teenager who doesn't get any moral advice from home. My parents don't seem to care what direction I take, and I don't know where to turn.*

Unfortunately, a lot of parents don't know how to lead their children in making moral decisions because of their (parents') lack of training. They weren't trained for the sexual explosion that is bombarding you every day, and they don't have a manual for moral conversation. Morality was instilled in them by their homes when they were growing up, and it was something that wasn't discussed. Approach your parents and let them know you need moral guidance. If they aren't comfortable with that, ask them to whom you should talk about this. If they don't know, approach your pastor, Sunday School teacher, youth minister, school counselor, respected teacher, scout leader, coach, relative, or close adult friend. There are excellent books and videos from Baptist Book Store and Focus on the Family that can help you. You are becoming more and more responsible for your choices. Use the adult community around you as a valuable resource, but if you cannot find what you need from them, begin the quest yourself through prayer until the Lord leads you to the right person and materials to answer your questions.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

# Gulfshore director Frank Simmons talks of assembly's ministry, work

In the following interview with *The Baptist Record* (BR), Gulfshore Assembly Manager Frank Simmons (FS) answered questions about his work at Gulfshore.

**BR:** How did you get the job at Gulfshore?

**FS:** I was serving as activities director at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. During the 1977 state convention, I was contacted by Earl Kelly for a job interview. I knew that the assembly was scheduled to reopen in 1978, but I didn't know much else about the position. I believe the Lord's call in my life led me to be here.

**BR:** Is your job fulfilling?

**FS:** I do enjoy my job at Gulfshore. There are so many people dedicated to the work and the ministry of the assembly that it makes it easier and fulfilling to me.

**BR:** Which part of your work do you like best?

**FS:** The best part is to know that we touch and change lives —

whether it is one of our college-age staff, one of the participants in a youth conference, or whether it is a church leader who goes away from here inspired and challenged to make a difference in their church and community. It is also rewarding to be a part of the Baptist Building staff and to share that fellowship and work of "Helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus."

**BR:** Other than SBC folks, who else uses the assembly?



Simmons

Gulfshore is used on a priority basis, with state convention projects having first priority, Mississippi associational and/or church projects second, and other church religious projects third.

Other patrons include church groups from other denominations and come mainly from within a 150-mile radius of the assembly grounds. We've hosted ladies' retreats, church-wide retreats, youth groups, choir groups, and senior adult camps. We've had one church from Texas come 12 years in a row.

**BR:** What was your most memorable Gulfshore experience?

**FS:** I've had many memorable experiences — some funny, some serious — many different emotions. Two things come to mind. One goes back to the closing ser-

vice of our 1984 youth conference. There was a wonderful moving of God's Spirit in the worship service and was a tremendous spiritual high for me.

The second was the 1989 worship and dedication for the Phase II construction. Graham Smith's solo of "Holy Ground" stands out in my memory.

**BR:** How does the job affect your home life?

**FS:** Naturally, any job affects your home life, but to me it's very positive. My three children have all been blessed with Gulfshore experiences, and my wife is a faithful supporter of our work and a great encourager to me personally.

**BR:** What changes would you like to see at Gulfshore?

**FS:** J. Clark Hensley has said that "Gulfshore is Mississippi Baptists' best kept secret." I wish that our churches and leaders would utilize the facilities and programs by having more people come and participate.

**BR:** How can churches and the state convention help?

**FS:** By helping make our 625,000 Baptists aware of Gulfshore. I hope that more and more people will be able to attend future events at Gulfshore.

It is important that our churches continue to support our facility and programs by giving to the Cooperative Program. I'm convinced that our facility and location has as much to offer as any other state assembly in the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Antioch, Louisville, marks 150th

Antioch Church, Louisville (Winston), will observe its 150th anniversary on Oct. 2.

A special morning worship service will be followed by dinner on the grounds.

From its log cabin beginnings in 1844, the church has grown to a membership of 196.

The congregation is now housed in its fourth structure, which replaced the one lost in a fire in 1926. Former pastors have included Carol Kitchens, Rueben Clark, and Auzie Sullivan.

Jimmy Collins is current pastor. For more information, contact Collins at (601) 773-2264.

## Experiencing God weekends for couples in '95

"Experiencing God," the Bible study course materials published by the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB), will soon be presented in weekend retreat form for couples, beginning January 1995.

First sites for the "Experiencing God Weekend for Couples" will be Jan. 6-8 in Memphis; Jan. 20-22 in Dallas/Fort Worth; and Jan. 27-29 in Ridgecrest, N.C.

The weekends are intended to enable couples to recognize and affirm God's work in each other, and to increase spiritual intimacy in marriages.

Henry Blackaby, co-author of the series and director of the Home Mission Board's Prayer Strategy Office, will be keynote speaker for the weekends, along with his wife Marilyn.

For more information, call the BSSB at (615) 251-2277.

*"Several years ago I read this article in The Baptist Record. It has meant so much to me — I see so many children mistreated. If you can, please reprint the article. So many people these days don't put children first and I believe our children are so important."*

— Jean Hedrick, Newton

## Devotional —

## Don't wound a child

By S.L. Morgan Sr., Wake Forest, N.C.

It has been a wound in my heart for over 75 years. I was a tiny lad, and she was one of my first teachers. I picture her as a haughty "aristocrat." I walked a mile from my humble home, crossed two creeks on foot bridges, climbed two steep hills, aspiring after knowledge to cope with the great world.

Timidly from a distance I admired my teacher, and longed to have her for a friend. And she could so easily have won my eternal love and gratitude. It would have required only a little kindness and respect for me as a person. But often she humiliated me and left deep wounds.

Once I chanced to make a strange sound by rubbing my hand on the back of the seat, and she said cruelly, "Did you do that? I thought you were a gentleman!" And before the school she was saying out loud I was not! It cut deep. And the wound has hurt for 75 years!

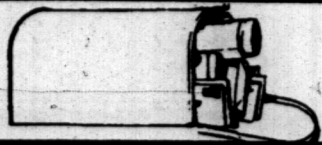
And I deeply longed to have her for a friend. And she was stiff and cold to all my overtures.

It is even yet one of the poignant memories of a lifetime. It burned into me one of life's lessons: the heart of a child is tender, and the wounds of a child are deep and may last forever!

Another teacher, a year or two later, won all my heart and has been a great power in my life — for 75 years. She was a plain country girl, but she personified for me kindness, goodness, and religion, and she bound my heart to her forever in love and gratitude. I tell her so now and then, and lately she wrote me thanks — at 92 from Oklahoma.

Beware of wounding a child; win his love by kindness.





# Letters to the editor



## Punctual: sign of faith

Editor:

It's 10:17 a.m., 32 minutes after the ringing of the 9:45 Sunday School bell; and parents are still bringing their children to our department.

At first glance, you would think Wow, man! That's great that the parents still come, even though they're late. But it's not a Wow thing when parents who get to work at 8 a.m. sharp, five days a week, or get up at 6 a.m. to play golf or tennis before it gets too hot, can't make it to God's house of worship by 9:45.

What a disgrace to the kingdom of God. What a terrible example is being set for the youth of tomorrow.

Most children want to be like Mom and Dad, regardless of what lifestyle they live. If the parents smoke or drink, then chances are, their kids will smoke and drink.

Regardless of what area we live, work, or play in we normally follow the lead of those who set the pace or lead the pack.

Why should we think that it will be any different for the children of today not to follow the examples of their parents?

If today's church-going parents don't instill into the minds and hearts of their children that punctuality and reverence is expected, then we will see in the Bible Belt

what has already happened in the northeast and western states of this great country; and that a falling away.

Believe me when we say that the South is almost the last bastion of strength and hope for America's future church. We need to preserve it, not destroy it.

Richard and Gina Headrick  
Laurel

## Defends conference

Editor:

I want to respond to Hugh A. Martin's letter critical of our upcoming conference on ministering in communities impacted by gambling.

First, our program was planned by a committee that received input from numerous individuals nationwide. Gambling is a problem that is affecting our entire nation and many folk are struggling with how to be effective in their ministry and witness to a lost world.

Second, some of us have sat in civic club meetings and listened to representatives laud the positive impact they are having on the community. We made the decision to invite two casino industry representatives to our turf so that we could ask them questions they have not heard.

Third, we do not plan a tour of casinos! We are offering a van ride down the coast so that conference

participants can see the physical impact casinos are making. For example, the close proximity of casinos to some churches makes parking for worship services a major hassle.

Fourth, why magnify two things that some see as negative, and ignore all the other positives that are planned?

I regret any misunderstanding that may have developed regarding the conference. Sometimes a news release does not always convey adequate information or may lend itself to misinterpretation. We only wanted to invite others to the conference because we, too, are struggling with how to cope with a radically changing ministry landscape.

Bobby C. Perry  
Gulf Coast Association  
Gulfport

## Responds to editorial

Editor:

The editorial of Sept. 1, "Theological double-speak" is more evidence of journalistic digging for something to give the liberal view.

In my 36 years of conservative biblical preaching and pastoring, I have never been more satisfied with the stand of our seminaries and their leaders than now. It's about time to rid our classrooms of moderate/liberal professors.

I revel in the courage of our Southern Seminary president to take the position of providing theological instruction that does not undermine the truth of Scripture or the loyalty to our Southern Baptist Convention.

When good conservative churches support the Cooperative Program, giving generously and with conviction, those churches want those dollars to support seminaries whose classrooms are led by

professors who instruct with heart and soul in conservative positions of biblical truth.

Let's search out all the liberals and disloyal to SBC seminary teachers and send them packing.

Artis F. Grice  
Picaune

## Protests editorial

Editor:

As a trustee of the Southern Seminary I am registering my strongest protest to your editorial of Sept. 1, "Theological double-speak."

The reason for the resignation of Molly Marshall was only her aberrant theology. The concerns about her views are well known and published in current news accounts. These include the doctrines of the atonement, salvation, security of the believer, person of God, and Scripture. As an illustration, on salvation she believes God is working through non-Christian religions to draw people to Christ and people will be saved after death even though they never were born again in this life. See her dissertation, "No Salvation Outside the Church?"

You quote Marshall, "the Abstract has been a smoke screen." In the same Associated Baptist Press release, she says about the Abstract of Principles, "We've never had an official interpretation. It has always been left to the liberty of the conscience of the individual faculty member." She is incorrect. Until recent times the doctrinal statement of the seminary had a meaning, the plain one that the simple words of the document stated. Since about mid-century and the rise of diversity, Marshall is correct. A faculty member could believe anything and it was acceptable as long as the faculty mem-

ber's conscience wasn't violated. In other words, the Abstract lost all meaning. Thus Marshall and many others have claimed faithfulness to our confessional documents while holding divergent views. No wonder she and others decry Mohler's insistence that the Abstract has a meaning.

Marshall's supporters have introduced gender bias. Even former President Roy Honeycutt who hired Marshall has said, "The resignation request was based on... theological posture and unrelated to gender" (The Courier-Journal, Aug. 27, p. A10).

It is a disservice to Baptists to attack Mohler's character by implying hypocrisy (theological double-speak) and lack of personal conviction (pressured by his trustees). Mohler is a brother of the highest Christian integrity who acts out of his own convictions and is committed to the God of Scripture. To suggest otherwise rather than dealing with issues that may divide is inappropriate.

John S. Allen  
Richton

Editor's Note: Some 44 other professors at Southern disagreed with Mohler on the forced resignation. The editorial questioned the president's saying it's okay for a woman to be a teacher of theology, but not the pastor of a church. The president is commended for the dismissal if Marshall was not teaching according to the Abstract of Principles.

## AT&T counters claim

Editor:

In recent weeks erroneous information concerning AT&T and the Gay Games, as well as misleading or inaccurate information about AT&T's non-discrimination policies, was distributed to various religious media by Donald Wildmon and the American Family Association. Some publications have printed the misinformation without calling AT&T to check for accuracy.

To cite a couple of examples, the article called AT&T a "major sponsor" of the Gay Games. In fact, AT&T was not a sponsor at all. Like many corporations, including our major competitors, AT&T markets to the gay community and other minority segments of the population. At the Gay Games, we had a booth for signing up long-distance customers, and we provided a laser show. But the article's implication that AT&T spent \$250,000 to sponsor the Games is unfounded and irresponsible.

The article also states that "AT&T has long been a leader in promoting the homosexual lifestyle." In fact, AT&T does not endorse any personal lifestyle, nor do we promote any particular sexual orientation. We do strive to be non-discriminatory in our employment practices, and we have a responsibility to treat all employees with dignity.

Bryant Steele  
AT&T media relations manager  
Atlanta

# Dayspring 1994

Reaching  
Women  
Who

Touch  
The World

October 6-8, 1994

Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

(Jointly sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union)



Marge Caldwell Beth Moore Esther Burroughs Babbie Mason Beverly Terrell

Plus over 50 exciting seminars created just for you!

Program Fee:

\$45.00 until September 15; \$50.00 at the door (space available)

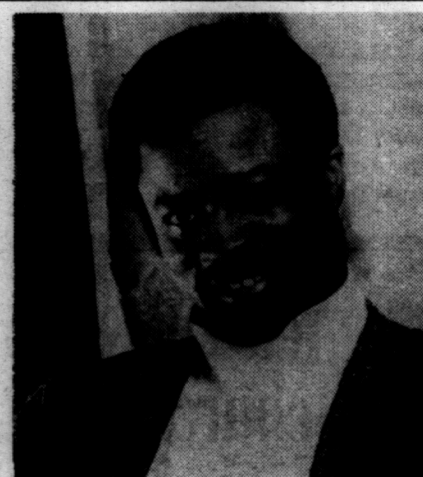
Space is limited! Call 404/432-2902 or 404/898-7752 for more information.

# Larnelle

IN CONCERT

Sept. 29

7:30 pm



## Alta Woods Baptist Church

168 Colonial Dr., Jackson, Miss.

Tickets: \$9 each, \$8 each for group of 15+

Available at Baptist Book Store, Maranatha Bookstore, Family Bookstores, and Church Office, (601) 372-8651

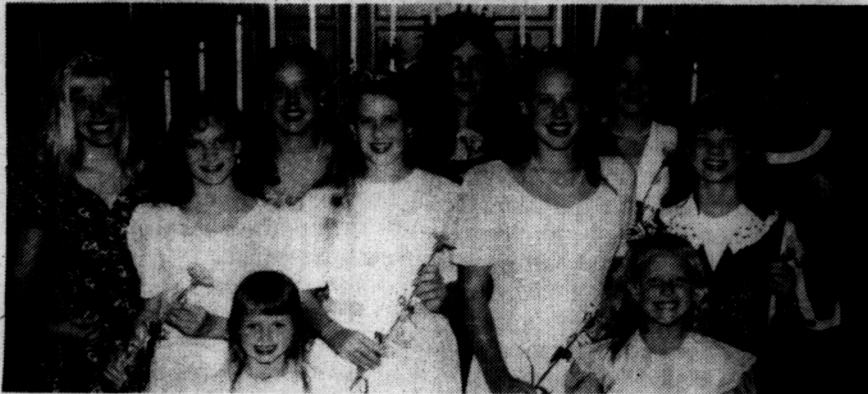
Alta Woods is located in South Jackson. From I-20 West, take Terry Rd. South exit, travel 1/2 mile, turn right on Colonial Drive.



# Just for the Record



**Mt. Pleasant Church, Lincoln Association**, held ground breaking services for its new fellowship hall. Pictured, from left, are Talmadge Smith, director of missions for Lincoln County; front row, Frank Owens, building committee; Corinne Brown; back row, J.P. Moak, deacon; Garland Brown, building committee; Anthony Yarborough, pastor; Willa Moak, building committee; Henry Carlisle, building committee; Seggie Mercier, deacon; Larkin Moak, deacon; and Chuck Davis, deacon. Dedication service for the completed hall will be held Oct. 2 after the morning worship and a luncheon.



**First, Jackson**, recently held its Acteens recognition service. Youths who were crowned Queen were (top, left to right): back row, Susan Ruth Cope, Julie Wiley, Meredith Skelton, Whitney Wall, Melanie Young; front row, Bonnie Scafield, Allison McClure, Betsy Wiley, Christa Walker; crownbearers were Carly Stegall and Lucy Leavell. Queen Regents who received capes were (above, left to right): back row, Rebekah Moak, Lauren Glass, Emily Bush, Shelby Bell; front row, Elizabeth Cope, Emily Agent, Nicole Guy, and Emily Rainey.

**Ecrú Church, Pontotoc Association**, will celebrate its 90th anniversary on Oct. 30 at 10:30 a.m. Bill Boulton, Baker, La., will be the guest speaker. Music will be presented by Danny McGee of Ecrú and Bob Christensen of Louisville, Ky. George Smith is pastor.

**First Church, Winona**, held its Acteens and Mission Friends Recognition Service on July 17. Candace Walker was recognized as Queen Regent in Service. Queen Regents were Jennifer Cotten and Rachel Gill. Queens with Scepter were Katie Branch and Katie Sullivan. Queens were Laura Arnold, Jessica Cotten, and

erly, Beth Golding, James Grimes, Katie Halfacre, Jenny Claire Hammond, Holly Hardin, Beth Land, Kade Lester, Brandi McElroy, Genie McNeer, Kellum Oliver, Lee Pratt, Allison Walker, and Garrett Williams. Acteen leaders are Cherie Cotten and Bea Colbert. Mission Friends leaders are Patsy Boone, Julie Halfacre, Robin Halfacre, and Karsandra Padgett. Johnny Walker is pastor, and Julie Halfacre is WMU director.

**Bethel Church, Columbus**, held a dedication service Aug. 21 for its new fellowship hall and offices. David Brooks of Warrenville, S.C., and Bill Webb of Columbus, both former pastors, were on program. A covered dish meal was served in the new hall. Charles Whitney is interim pastor.

**Morgantown Church, Natchez**, recognized the Media Library Summer Reading Club participants Aug. 14 during the worship service. The club, directed by Sue Smith and Kay Franks, had 37 enrolled and 18 who read 295 books. Winners were awarded certificates. They were: Benjamin Parnham, preschool; Amy Binns, children; Misty Franks, youth; and Joyce Parish, adult. Margaret Clanton is media library director.

**First Church, Memphis**, will celebrate its homecoming Sept. 25. Paul Caudill, pastor emeritus, will speak.

**Calvary Church, Durant**, will host a gospel singing with "The Father's Sons" and Jerry and Spin Smith, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.

**The Mississippi Baptist Religious Educators Association** will hold its fall luncheon at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, on Oct. 31 at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 19. For more information, contact David Webb, 1716 West Union Rd., Picayune, MS 39466.

Alyssa Dees. **Mission Friends** recognized were Cale Colbert, Justin Crenshaw, Brook Dodd, Drew Dotson, Kali Dunlap, Lane Emmons, Benjamin Eubanks, Brandon Eubanks, Patrick Fisack-

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# Revival Dates

**Trinity, Vicksburg:** Sept. 18-21; 7 p.m.; James Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Jimmy Yocum, Bastrop, La., music; Mickey Bounds, pastor.

**Johnson Creek, Stateline:** Sept. 25-30; 7 p.m.; Gary Martin, Piave, evangelist; John D. Coaker, pastor.

**Lynn Ray Road, Petal:** Sept. 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; Dale Patterson, Pensacola, Fla., evangelist; Charles Walker, music; Emmett Boone, pastor.

**Short Creek (Yazoo):** Sept. 18-21; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., noon covered dish lunch; 7 nightly; Jerry Smith, Durant, evangelist; Randy Hill, music; Norris Ables, pastor.

**Beacon Hill (Hinds-Madison):** Sept. 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon lunch, afternoon singing; 7 p.m. nightly; Henry J. Bennett, evangelist; John Lee, pastor.

**Calvary, Hattiesburg:** Oct. 1-7; Saturday, fish fry, 5 p.m., \$6; homecoming Sunday, 11 a.m. worship; noon dinner on the grounds; 2 p.m. gospel sing with J.D. Sumner and the Stamps; revival 7 nightly.

**Macedonia, Byhalia:** Sept. 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7:30 nightly; Bobby Moore, evangelist; Don Feener, music; Richard O'Bryan, pastor.

gelist; Don Feener, music; Richard O'Bryan, pastor.

**New Life Fellowship, Jackson:** Sept. 19-23; Sunday, pre-revival services, 6 p.m. with Charles Stanton; 7:15 nightly; Matthew Canada, Madison, evangelist; Charles A. Thurman, pastor.

**Raymond Road, Jackson:** Sept. 18-21; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bruce Gill, evangelist; Graham Smith, music; Dan Watts, pastor. New service schedule: Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10; Discipleship Training, 11:15.

**First, Braxton:** Sept. 16-18; church growth weekend; Donnie Guy, Gulfport, evangelist; Fri., covered dish dinner, family life center, 6:30 p.m.; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Sammy J. McDonald III, pastor.

**Crestview, Petal:** Sept. 18-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; George Berger, Lebanon DOM, evangelist; Jerry Wayne Lowery, Thaxton, music; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

**Pharsalia (Panola):** Sept. 16-18; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Dick Hill, Batesville, evangelist; Albert Moore, music; J.D. Joslin, pastor.



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# Names in the News

Thursday, September 15, 1994

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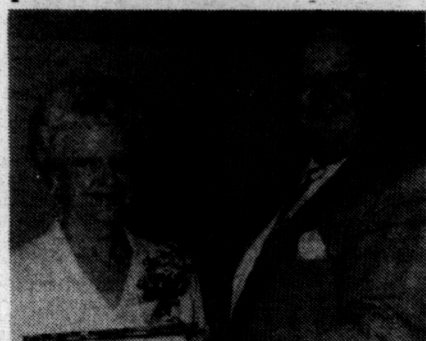
## Staff Changes

**DALLAS** — Alice Stover, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil for 25 years before retiring in 1965, died Aug. 25 at a nursing home in Dallas. She was 88. Appointed in 1940 by the Foreign Mission Board with her husband Sherrod she did evangelistic work in the state of Minas Gerais, where he directed the Baptist state convention for many years. Her husband died in 1991 at age 85.

**Chester Estes Jr.**, Mission Service Corps missionary, has been asked to work on the revision project of Home Mission Board's Prayer for Spiritual Awakening (PSA) Seminar. Estes was at Gloria Conference Center during HMB week, July 23-29, and Ridgecrest Conference Center, Aug. 20-26, co-teaching a field test edition of PSA with Conrad Keil, who mans the HMB Prayer Line in Atlanta. Estes has carried the message of Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Seminar across the U.S., Asia, and Europe since 1983. Surrendering to the preaching ministry at First Church, Ocean Springs, under the pastorate of W.R. Storie, Estes pastored for 27 years before entering this ministry.

**Merrill E. Merkle Sr.**, a member of First Church, Yazoo City, for nearly 67 years, was named the 13th annual recipient of the "Churchman of the Year" on Aug. 21. He was baptized into the mem-

bership of the fellowship in 1927 during the ministry of the late Webb Brame. He was also a member during the ministries of W.C. Fields, Harold A. Shirley, and James F. Yates. David Raddin is pastor of First Church.



**Fellowship Church, Starkville**, recently called **John H. Crump** as its first pastor.

A native of Starkville, he is a graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. He has served churches in Pearl River and Clay counties.

**Midway Church, Jackson**, has called **H. Bryan Abel Sr.** as pastor. He goes to Midway Church from Center Ridge Church in Yazoo City where he served for 10 years. Abel is a graduate of Florida Baptist Theological College. He attended Luther Rice and Memphis Baptist College. Abel and his wife Tracie will be honored at a social on Sunday evening, Sept. 25.

**Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven**, has called **Richard L. Strahan** as minister of music and youth, effective Aug. 7. A native of McComb, he is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and is presently enrolled at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Marrero, La.

**Williamsville Church, Kosciusko**, has called **Doug Hubbard** as minister of music/youth and children, effective Aug. 3. He is a native of Louisville. His previous place of service was Morgantown Church, Natchez.

**Ron Smith** has accepted the call as pastor at **Cowart Church, Tallahatchie Association**, effective Sept. 10. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

**Thomas Young** has been called as minister of music and youth at **First Church, Charleston**.

**Mark Hoover** has been called as youth director at **Rienzi Church, Pleasant Grove Church,**

**Church, Alcorn Association**. He is a student at Blue Mountain College. Charlie Cooper is pastor of Rienzi Church.

**Dale Nowell** resigned as pastor of **Oak Grove Church, Yazoo Association**, effective Sept. 6. He is available for supply, interim, or full-time work. Nowell can be contacted at 505 North Huntington Street, Kosciusko, MS 39090; phone (601) 289-7230.

**John R. Sproles** has resigned as interim pastor of **Antioch Church, Holmes Association**, effective Sept. 1. He is available for supply or interim work. He can be contacted at 317 Fairground Street, Kosciusko, MS 39090; phone (601) 289-9484.

**Calvary Church, New Augusta**, recently called **Clay Allen Ingram** as pastor. An ordination service for Ingram was held on Aug. 21 at Calvary Church.

Officiating at the service were Richard Miley, **Richburg Church**; Bill Nobles, evangelist; and Mark Gentry, **Arlington Church**. A reception was held in fellowship hall.

**John M. Adams** has been called to **First Church, Shallowater, Texas**, as pastor. He is a graduate of Benton High School, Luther Rice Seminary, and Texas Tech University. Other pastorates include Big Creek Church, Laurel.

**Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg**, has called **Mark L. Wilcoxson** as minister of youth and children, effective June 9. He is now attending New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was **Riverside Church, River Ridge, La.**

Wayne Association, has called **Frankie Clark** as pastor. He is a graduate of William Carey College and is presently enrolled in New Orleans Seminary's extension program.

**Longview Church, Pontotoc Association**, has called **Jimmy Russell** as pastor. He formerly served Friendship Church.

**Bethel Church, Columbus**, has called **Ron Harrison** of Houston as pastor, effective Sept. 4. The Blue Mountain College graduate previously served Arbor Grove Church.

**Baxterville Church, Lumberton**, has called **Mark Sheffield** as pastor, effective Sept. 4. The native of Texas is a graduate of Samford University and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served Labadieville Mission.

**Odell Tebo** has retired from **Enterprise Church, Liberty**, effective Aug. 28, for health reasons. Tebo and his wife Johnnie were honored by the church with a salad supper and gift. The couple lives at 47 Lyles Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401; phone (601) 582-4172, where he can be reached for interim and supply work.

## Homecomings

**First, Houston:** Sept. 17-18; 152nd anniversary; Saturday, 6 p.m.; missions rally and dinner in fellowship hall; Sunday, 10:45 a.m.; John Tierney, Greenville, S.C., guest speaker; Don and Sara Odom, Florida, music; Al Gaspar, pastor.

**Port Gibson (Union):** Sept. 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 with Nat Mayhall, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon service, 1:30 with L.B. Atchison and Milton Burns; David Brooks, Curtis Carter, Judy Hutchinson, Mr. & Mrs. David Easley, Billy Rayburn, Cornerstone Quartet, and Charles Bingham also on program; Clayton Bath, pastor.

**First, Sardis:** Sept. 17-18; conclusion of 150th anniversary; Saturday, 5 p.m. fellowship; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. worship with Charles Conley; Wayne Brown, music; covered dish lunch, noon; afternoon music, 1:30; Jerry Sanford, pastor.

**Rocky Point (Leake):** Sept. 25; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon service, 1:30; Curtis James, Jackson, guest speaker; Redeem, Winona, guest singers; Emon White, pastor.

**New Prospect (Lincoln):** Sept. 18; beginning 10 a.m.; covered dish dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon music program; Ted Rushing, Birmingham, Ala., guest speaker; Gene Douglas, pastor.

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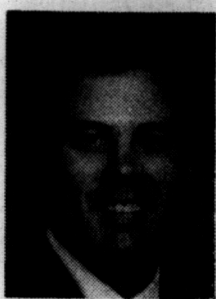
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## Uniform Obeying God



By Richard Bradley  
Joshua 6

The fall of Jericho into the hands of the invading Hebrews is a vivid testimony to what happens when we obey the Lord's instructions. Jericho, one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, is situated in the wide plain of the Jordan Valley (Deut. 34:1,3) at the foot of the ascent to the Judean mountains. Although, only a few inches of rain-fall is recorded in Jericho each year, the city is a wonderful oasis, known as "the city of palm trees" (Deut. 34:3) or "the city of palms" (Judges 3:13). Jericho not only represented a wonderful prize for the people of God, it also represented another of those impossible obstacles which could only be overcome by complete obedience to God's word.

Cooperation with God is necessary for victory (vv. 1-5). These verses reveal a set of instructions from God to his people which are every bit as illogical as those given by him for the crossing of the Jordan River. Here we discover a strategy which I'm sure is not taught in the curriculums of any of our nation's military academies. The success of this strategy does not rely on cunning or speed. It does not rely on superior armament or defensive position. It does not rely on air power or modern technology. It does rely on obedience!

Sometimes God tells us to do something that really doesn't make a lot of sense to us. However, it requires a certain amount of Christian maturity for us to realize this is not a requirement. Our obedience to his commands is the only thing that is required. If God had given the people superior arms and the means to batter down and storm the walls of Jericho, then all the world would have stood in awe of the Hebrews. As it turned out, because of their obedience, we now stand, not in awe of the Hebrews, but in awe of the God of the Hebrews. Our obedience always results in praise for him.

A challenge to obedience (vv. 15-16). God will honor our faithfulness in the same manner that he honored the faithfulness of the Hebrews. Joshua was so sure that God was going to make good on his word that he announced the victory even before it happened: "The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, 'Shout! For the LORD has given you the city'" (v. 16, NIV). Now wouldn't he have looked silly if those walls had not fallen down flat? Can you imagine the looks he would have gotten after having the people do all that stuff for seven days? But the walls did fall down flat because Joshua listened to the voice of God and because he led the people to do the same.

We soon discover in the Christian life that when we rely on ourselves or upon others, our efforts will only yield what man can do. But when we rely on God's directions and his strength, we will have what only God can do. Too little is going on in our individual Christian lives and in our churches that can only be explained by the presence of the Almighty. This leads to an ineffective witness and an unattractive church. If we could have been there when the ram's horn was blown and the people shouted, I'm sure we would have felt the same electricity in the air that the Hebrews must have felt. God was there and he is still alive and well and among his people today.

God acts on our behalf (vv. 17-20). Joshua was so sure that God was going to keep his word that he even gave instructions to the people about what they should do with the plunder when the walls fell. Now this is confidence! Joshua reminded the people that they were to honor God by not taking anything which might bring the wrath of God upon the camp of Israel. Sometimes we forget just how much our sin affects the lives of others. They were not to keep anything of value for themselves, but were to give it all over to the Lord. God deserves the best. In fact, God deserves it all!

There are a number of biblical events I would like to have seen. This is certainly one. Imagine those soldiers on the walls, at first amused over the silly strategy of the Hebrews. As the six days wear on their amusement turns to concern. On the seventh day, when the people shout, their concern turns to stark terror as the walls begin to fall. Ask the defenders of Jericho if God acts on behalf of his people. He did then and he still does today!

Bradley is pastor, Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

## Bible Book Wisdom of living for God



By Raymond Kolb  
Ecclesiastes 7:1-12:14

Koheleth continues his observations concerning life. Is this just a continuation of a complaint session? I believe the whole book is much more than that. Whether thinking of his own experiences or of those of another person, or of other persons, he seems to realize that many other people view life just as it is described here, and he wants to turn them into another direction. As will be noticed in the final chapter he seemed to be interested in helping young people to get started in the right way. So, most of the book is used to point out detours and dangers along the way. He hoped that others might learn from his mistakes.

The author continues to look at life as being primarily of "this world," with little understanding of life after death. He sees "a righteous man perishing in his righteousness, and a wicked man living long in his wickedness" (7:15). "All share a common destiny — the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not" (9:2). "For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten" (9:5). With this fatalistic attitude about the future, Koheleth, on different occasions, decided that the best one can do is to enjoy this life as much as possible, since he has no great hope for the future.

Chapter 11:1-6 gives advice about diligence in work regardless of one's profession. Whether in foreign trade (11:1) or farming (11:6), it may be well to diversify (11:2), be constantly at work, and not wait for ideal conditions (11:4-6). The New English Version translates 11:1-2 as follows: "Send your grain across the seas, and in time you will get a return. Divide your merchandise among seven ventures, eight maybe, since you do not know what disasters may occur on earth."

The conclusion of this book is seen in 11:7-12:14. Koheleth appeals especially to youth, though his appeal may be valuable to those of any age. "Light" and "sun" (11:7) seem to refer to fullness of life with the vigor of youth. Enjoy them. But remember that old adage, "days of darkness" (11:8), is coming. Be happy. Enjoy all of life doing what is right. Avoid the wrong for "God will bring you to judgment" (11:9).

Now comes the great challenge: "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them'" (11:1). Following this challenge come verses 2-8 in which the author gives a somber picture of old age and death. An elderly friend who had lived a very useful life, but whose poor vision and poor hearing made reading material and television almost useless to him, said to me, "Old people live in the past." If you reach the point of "living in the past," will that time be filled with pleasant memories, or with sadness because of a mis-spent youth and of lost opportunities? I am reminded of the story of a young woman who was very wealthy and had everything she wanted of material things. After a trip around the world she returned home and committed suicide. She left a note saying, "I have everything to live with but nothing to live for."

"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil" (12:13-14).

During World War II, I heard a sermon by a Jewish rabbi on the Day of Atonement. He tried to describe the problems our country was facing and to explain why we were in such trouble. He based his sermon on a series of Hebrew words explaining different kinds of sin, or different aspects of sin; such as "missing the mark," "falling short of the mark," "going beyond the mark," etc. I thought his sermon was excellent in analyzing our problems, but it missed the mark and fell terribly short in presenting a solution. He called for repentance, and rightly so; but, as a Jewish rabbi, he never mentioned the name of Jesus Christ who is the sure solution and the only solution to the problem of sin. He offers the abundant life!

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

## Life and Work God is Judge



By Ruth Allen  
Romans 2, 14; 1 Corinthians 4

A man was photographed by a convenience store surveillance camera in the act of committing armed robbery and murder. He was arrested, indicted, and brought before a judge who asked whether he was guilty or not guilty. He answered, "Not guilty." In the justice system of America, many criminals, caught in the act of crime, routinely plead not guilty, hoping to be free on a legal technicality. In the final judgment before God, no one will escape judgment on a technicality! Each one will stand before the judgment seat of God with his eternal destiny already determined. Judgment will be apportioned on the basis of works done in the flesh.

There is said to be a set of supersensitive scales in the mint at Philadelphia. A piece of paper can be placed in the pan and the scales balanced. The paper is then removed, and a name written thereon with a pencil. The paper is again placed in the pan, and the weight of the writing will send the scales down. These delicate scales can weigh the most minute variations with tremendous accuracy. The scriptures teach that God will bring every work into judgment. A day of accountability is coming when all will be weighed on the scales of our God, the Righteous Judge. The Great Judge is just. God has the right and duty to sit in judgment by virtue of his position as Creator and Lord of all life.

God, the Righteous Judge, has set a certain time for judgment. God's final judgment will occur after Christ's return. W.T. Connor, in *The Gospel of Redemption*, states three axioms concerning judgment:

1. **Judgment is certain.** "Judgment is not wholly deferred to the future. No person can do either good or evil without reaping immediately a reward of good or evil in accordance with his deed." Final judgment will take place at the end of time. The good and evil which man has done in the flesh continue to reproduce until finally judged by God. Knowledge of this fact should evoke serious thought on the part of all Christians concerning their actions and deeds. A portion of the joy derived from personal witnessing and missions support is to share the rewards of souls won to righteous living.

2. **Purpose of judgment.** Judgment does not determine whether a person is saved or lost. God is not required to conduct an investigation to establish the fact of one's destiny. The knowledge of heaven or hell is known at death, if not sooner. Judgment's purpose is to reward the Christian and punish the sinner.

3. **Ground of judgment.** Mankind is responsible and accountable to God. It must never be assumed that salvation by grace relieves people of responsibility. Paul's epistle to the Romans deals with this misconception. "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!" (Rom. 6:1-2a). Grace does not lessen accountability, but increases responsibility. Therefore, one should consider some admonitions from the scripture passages concerning getting ready to meet the Righteous Judge.

If one persists in judging others, he cannot escape the judgment of God. Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded, "Judge not that you be not judged."

Forbearance, patience, and kindness are meant to lead to repentance. One must beware of presuming on others for this reveals a haughty attitude contrary to the heart of Christ. God, the Righteous Judge, will show partiality to no one. Each person will stand on a common level. There will be no hint of aristocracy; no one will have preference over another. All are guilty of sin; therefore, this mandates that all are to be equal before the judgment seat of God. All shall receive the just rewards of deeds, whether good or bad.

God is going to judge motives as well as deeds. God's words to Samuel state, "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Don't judge by a man's weight or height for this is not the one. I don't make decisions the way you do! Men judge by outward appearance, but I look at a man's thoughts and intentions'" (1 Sam. 16:7). God, the Righteous Judge, will judge actions by thoughts and intentions as well as motives. Christians should keep their hearts and minds pure, above reproach.

Allen lives in Jackson.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

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**JUNE 1, 1994-  
JUNE 31, 1994**

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**JULY 1, 1994-  
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(to be continued)

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are very close to  
our \$125,000 Back  
To School Goal.  
Please help us  
Meet our Goal.



# capsules

**SOME MIDWESTERN SEMINARY TRUSTEES QUESTION PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT: KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)** — At least 10 trustees at Midwestern Seminary called for the removal of a recent faculty appointment by President Milton Ferguson but a trustee executive committee affirmed the appointment. The campaign to remove Ronnie Prevost from a faculty appointment amounted to "another round of innuendoes, character assassination, and like charges bordering on slander" at the seminary, charged the editor of Missouri Baptists' Word and Way weekly newsjournal. Morale at the Kansas City seminary, one of six owned by the Southern Baptist Convention, is low, wrote Bob Terry, Word and Way editor, in a Sept. 8 editorial. Prevost was contracted for two years as a religious education professor by Ferguson but Prevost's position favoring the ordination of women deacons apparently caused the trustee upheaval. Prevost, according to trustee chairman Lewis Adkison, assured the executive committee he would not advocate in the classroom or in other places the ordination of women.

**MISSIONARY RESIGNS FMB POST IN PROTEST: OWENSBORO, Ky. (ABP)** — A Southern Baptist missionary has resigned from her post in Togo in western Africa because of denominational politics. "I'm saying I resigned because of ethical and integrity reasons, and also the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention," Paula Settle said in a telephone interview. Settle, from Owensboro, Ky., was upset by a decision by the convention in June not to allow denominational agencies, such as the Foreign Mission Board that employs Settle, to accept donations from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Fellowship is a group of moderates some see as the beginnings of a rival denomination. "For me, that was the final blow," said Settle, who is a member of the Fellowship. "To me, you can't tell Baptists you are not going to take their money." Betty Kay Yamaoka, the mission board's associate area director for West Africa, said, "If she feels the Lord is leading her to resign, I can't help but wish her well as she follows the Lord's leading." Yamaoka said no other missionaries from West Africa have resigned as a result of the SBC decision. She said she had heard of no others elsewhere who were doing so either. "We have 4,000-plus missionaries out there who are not resigning over this," she said.

**CAREY ENROLLS RECORD RELIGION MAJORS: HATTIESBURG** — William Carey College officials announced record enrollment totals — including an all-time high in religion majors — for its Mississippi campuses as fall registration ended. "We have nearly 100 religion majors, which is one of the largest programs in the South. Last year we had 80 majors," stated Larry Kennedy, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies. "Enrollment is currently 1,750 as compared to 1,725 in 1993. This growth will partially offset a planned reduction in our New Orleans programs, which had grown to record levels in recent years," indicated Carey President Jim Edwards. A higher average ACT score of freshmen students was also apparent from the preliminary enrollment report. "The average ACT score for new freshmen is 21.3, up from 20.2 in 1993. We also have 17 new STAR students — high school valedictorians and salutatorians who are part of our honors program at Carey." The Mississippi statewide ACT average for 1994 high school seniors is 19.8. Full-time freshmen enrollment is up 3% in Hattiesburg.

**SBC LEADERS PRAY, MEET WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON: WASHINGTON (BP)** — Three Southern Baptist leaders spent more than an hour making a pastoral visit to the president of the United States Sept. 8. The three were Jim Henry, SBC president and pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla.; Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Home Mission Board; and Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., President Bill Clinton's home church. They were joined by Vice President Al Gore for half the meeting which followed a White House prayer breakfast attended by 60 religious leaders. During the breakfast Clinton called on people of faith to debate the issues without screaming at each other. "We mustn't let the culture war divide us. Pray for me. I'm doing the best I can," Clinton said.

## Bibliocipher

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Z BZYCXBAP DYCFORG DYPP FEC PYO: HAC Z  
BZPGO DYCFORG DYPP ACCON PYOG.

TNEIONHG BEANCOOF:BYIO

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Seven: Twenty-Six.



## Volunteers to Japan

**Midoi No Makiba (Green Pastures) Christ Church in Higashi, Japan**, dedicated its new church building and parsonage June 19, thanks to the help of 23 Missisippians. The volunteers, working in two teams, spent 12 weeks in Japan earlier this year constructing the congregation's new facility. Volunteers pictured, standing, left to right, are Randy Dees, David Selvy, Hiram Pow-

ell, Wayne Crenshaw, Lamar Callahan, Kenneth Briggs, Jesse White, Joe Dickerson, Sam Dees; seated, left to right, Olif Matthews, Sinurd Thorn, Lecil Lee, O.K. Carr, Sammy Platt III, Ann Callahan, Catherine and Joe Heranney, and Charles Hughes. Not pictured are Pat Selvy, E.L. and Theo Bennett, Dan Butler, and Joe Crow Jr. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Camp Crestridge celebrates 40 years

**RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)** — Muddy walks, changing into skirts three times a day for meals, and a camp director who could silence a room full of giggling girls without saying a word were remembered July 2 during the 40th anniversary celebration of Camp Crestridge for Girls at Ridgecrest, N.C.

More than 100 former campers and staffers from the camp's

beginning in 1955 mingled with 155 girls attending the 1994 version of Crestridge and organized an alumni association.

Among them was **Johnnie Armstrong**, chairperson of the Department of Physical Education and athletic director at Blue Mountain College.

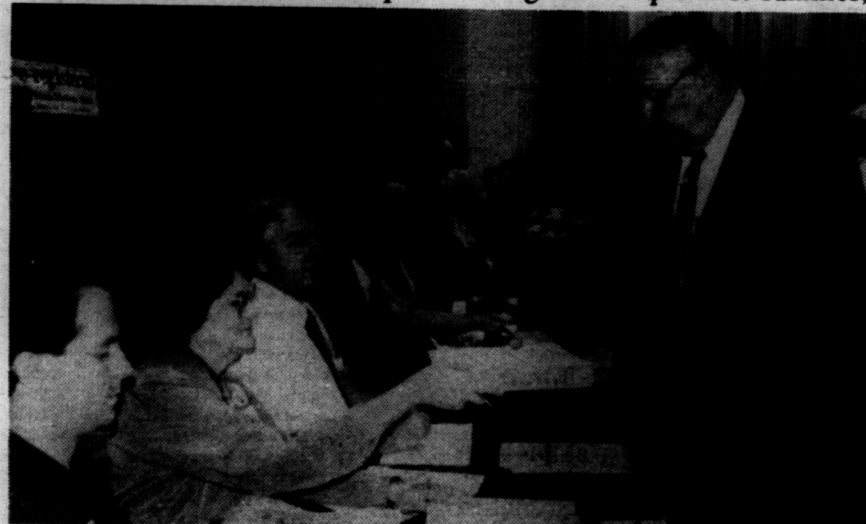
Armstrong, associate director during the camp's first summer,

recalled Crestridge had no hot water or electricity. Because no dining hall had yet been constructed, campers "walked on muddy roads to the conference center (Ridgecrest). It rained every day. You couldn't wear shorts at the conference center so we changed clothes three times a day.

"We spent most of our time changing clothes!" said Armstrong, who spent the next 33 summers as associate director and then director of Crestridge.

She paid tribute to three men who were instrumental in starting Crestridge — James L. Sullivan, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, 1953-75; the late Willard Weeks, then manager of Ridgecrest which operates Crestridge; and George Pickering, then director of Camp Ridgecrest for Boys, started in 1926, four years after the establishment of the conference center.

Four of the original 26 Crestridge staffers attended the reunion, including Beth Sullivan Taylor, daughter of James L. Sullivan. Taylor's daughter, Lydia Taylor Pierce, also attended Crestridge as camper and staffer.



## MALT conference a success

The Metro Area Leader Training (MALT) Conference, held Aug. 26-27 at First Church, Jackson, was pronounced a success by organizers, who handled more than 1,450 registrations for the church leader training event. Katherine Webster (top, seated center), secretary for the executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), hands a conference notebook to an unidentified MALT participant during the registration period. Assisting Webster were Jeff Smith (left) of Raymond Road Church, Jackson, and Sid Johnson of Wildwood Church, Clinton. Don Hicks (above, standing), consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB, led a MALT session on improving children's Bible drills. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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September 15, 1994